

REMEMBERING BISHOP ODIS FLOYD

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, just as a building needs a foundation, every community needs pillars—people who provide strength, inspiration, guidance, and leadership, people to rally around in tough times. Today, the city of Flint, MI, is missing one of its pillars.

Bishop Odis Floyd of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church died this week at the age of 71 after a long illness. For more than four decades, he was the spiritual leader of the church he helped his grandfather found. At an imposing 6-foot-6, with a powerful preaching and singing voice, he became known around the country for his stirring sermons and appeared on a number of gospel music albums. Whether in quiet conversation with a church member or in powerful preaching from the pulpit, he was a spiritual giant.

His faith taught him to reach out beyond his church, not just with spiritual guidance but to lend a hand to those in need. The church's charitable and outreach efforts under his leadership have had an enormous impact. They include programs to provide a safe and welcoming place for children; educational efforts; assistance to those who need medical care, food, and clothing; counseling and social work services, and much more.

Bishop Floyd also was a valued adviser to business and community leaders in Flint, in Michigan, and beyond. I was fortunate to visit with him on many occasions, and I valued those visits for his knowledge of the community and the quality of his counsel. His love and concern for Flint ran deep, and no matter the challenge, he was always at the forefront of those looking for solutions. His commitment to his community was profound and provided a shining example to others.

Whether it was in preaching the gospel he felt so deeply or in reaching out to help others, one word sums up the gift Bishop Floyd brought to those around him: hope. "People need hope," he once told an interviewer, "and that's always what I want to give them."

His loss has deprived the community he loved of a strong and steady pillar. It now falls to all those who care about Flint to take up where he left off and to continue his work to improve the city and lives of its citizens.

Many will miss him, but none more than the family he loved: his wife and partner, Brenda; son Anthony; daughters, Nikki and Toyia, who served admirably as an intern in my office; and five grandchildren. Barbara and I send our condolences to them, to the members of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, and to the thousands who have, in ways great and small, been touched by Bishop Floyd's strength, generosity, and faith.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY SWAPP

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this past August I had the opportunity to visit

Beaver County, Utah, where I met an educator who is working tirelessly to prepare our Nation's youth for success in our transformative economy. This rural area of southwest Utah is home to my State's major energy initiatives, including the largest wind farm in Utah.

In 2001 a local shop teacher, Andy Swapp, observed that Milford, UT could capitalize on the powerful winds in the area. Inspiring his students to learn about renewable energy, the class applied to Utah's anemometer loan program to erect a 20 meter meteorological tower. As the students collected and analyzed the wind data, they attracted the attention of a wind prospector named Curtis Whittaker. Mr. Whittaker was impressed with the preliminary data but more so with the dedication, enthusiasm and accomplishments of eighth grade students. He sent a 50 meter tower to Milford High School for Mr. Swapp and students to construct in the wind-swept desert. Mr. Swapp used the real world project to teach students about wind turbines and power outputs, inspiring students to apply their classroom lessons to developing solutions for affordable, abundant energy. As the commercial wind farm developed, Mr. Swapp's classes were continually relied upon for data collection while receiving training in wind farm maintenance operations. Over the last decade, Mr. Swapp's students participated in all phases of completing Utah's largest commercial wind farm.

Mr. Swapp's dedication to fostering student learning and success is not limited to wind power. His classes at Milford High School won a Rocky Mountain Power "Bluesky" grant to install a 10 kilowatt array of solar panels on a dual axis tracker on the front lawn of the school, and a roof top mounted solar array. The students were allowed to work with the contractor, helping install the \$125,000 system. The students are now monitoring the energy production to compare the dual axis tracker with the standard technology. His classes also participate in national electric race car construction contests.

To broaden the education of his students, Mr. Swapp organized the Milford Renewable Energy Fair. With support from South West Applied Technology College, the fair has grown to include secondary schools from all over the State and major vendors in the industry. Milford High School is also home to the Southwest Renewable Energy Center, which Mr. Swapp helped devise to promote the energy-rich area of Beaver County and Southwest Utah. It is a collaboration of secondary schools, technical colleges, 4-year universities, State-wide economic advancement districts, research and development partnerships and technology commercialization firms. This center connects students to jobs, internships, and scholarships.

Mr. Swapp is an outstanding example of educators bringing learning to life

and helping students envision a sustainable future. Mr. Swapp's students have enrolled in energy and engineering programs at Southern Utah University and Southwest Applied Technology College. They have secured high-skill, high paying jobs in their hometown. Their paths have been inspired by the curiosity, creativity and dedication of their teacher.

Prior to becoming an educator, Mr. Swapp served our country as a career infantry Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Following his service, he returned to Utah to offer rural students the very best in education, to expand their horizons, and to foster a positive attitude for their future. Mr. Swapp has been an example to his students by completing an Associate of Science, AS, from Dixie State College, a Bachelor of Science from Southern Utah University, and a Master of Science from Utah State University.

Mr. President, I was really impressed with what I experienced in meeting Andy. I wanted to highlight the important, innovative work of a successful educator engaged in leading our Nation into the future.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, musicians Bono and Alicia Keys are in Washington, DC, today to meet with Presidents Obama, Clinton, and Bush about what is next in the global battle against AIDS. They note that we are reaching a tipping point on combating HIV/AIDS worldwide, which is why they and many others, including myself, believe continued U.S. leadership is critical.

It is fitting that this gathering is taking place today—World AIDS Day. We all should remember that HIV/AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 550,000 Americans so far, while 1.1 million others are living with the disease.

Florida has been hit particularly hard: about 100,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS. Florida has the longest waiting list of low-income residents waiting for assistance with the high cost of lifesaving medications. More than 3,000 Floridians are on that list; and, alarmingly, the number could grow as the State considers cutting more than 1,600 who already are in the government-backed program.

Federal, State, and local governments must understandably tighten their belts. But focusing on such short-term savings is horribly shortsighted. For several reasons, these cuts will only lead to higher costs to taxpayers in the long run—cases will become more difficult to manage, transmission rates are likely to increase, and patients will more frequently need expensive care in emergency rooms and hospitals.

We must also remain committed to the goals of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief globally. Among the goals are to prevent more than 12 million new HIV infections and provide